



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 1 September 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- After dealing a glancing blow to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and knocking out power to 174,000 customers and water to 33,000 customers, Hurricane Earl is heading out into the open Atlantic Ocean and forecasters warned the large, dangerous Category 4 storm packing winds of 135 mph could hit the Carolinas later this week. (See item [1](#))
- According to Bloomberg, two men being held by Dutch authorities after arriving on a flight from the United States are unlikely to have been planning a terrorist attack, two U.S. law enforcement officials said. Dutch authorities had said the two men, of Yemeni descent, were being held because suspicious items were found in their luggage, including a mobile phone taped to a Pepto-Bismol bottle, other phones and watches strapped together, several knives, and at least one box-cutter. (See item [24](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 31, CNN* – (International) **Hurricane Earl could take aim at Carolinas by Friday.** After dealing a glancing blow to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Hurricane Earl left 174,000 customers out of power and 33,000 lacked water. “We were quite fortunate because there was no direct hit in this case,” the governor of Puerto Rico told CNN. But, he said, the island experienced “lots of rain” and some high winds. Hurricane Earl is heading back out into the open Atlantic Ocean and forecasters warned the large and dangerous storm could have the Carolinas in its sights later this week. Earl quickly developed into a Category 4 storm August 30 packing winds of 135 mph. It also grew large, with hurricane-force winds stretching 70 miles from its center and tropical storm-force winds extending outward some 200 miles.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/08/31/tropical.weather/>
2. *August 31, Wall Street Journal* – (California) **Refinery status: Valero restarts Benicia, California coker unit.** Valero Energy said August 30 a coker unit at its Benicia, California refinery was in restart mode following an extended period of maintenance. The unit was taken out of service in June for what was expected to be 40 days of unplanned work. The time frame was extended to about 60 days, a company executive said July 27. Sunoco Inc. said August 30 that one of the reformer units at its Philadelphia oil refining complex experienced operational issues August 29. The upset has had minimal impact on operations in the rest of the facility, a company spokesman said. The status of the reformer is unclear. ConocoPhillips (COP) said that refinery teams at its joint-venture Wood River oil refinery in Roxana, Illinois, responded safely and promptly to a power disruption August 28 but provided no further details.
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100831-707856.html>
3. *August 31, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Monmouth County power outage caused by sub-station failure affects 70K.** A power outage at a Jersey Central Power & Light sub-station August 30 sparked a massive blackout that left more than 70,000 Monmouth County, New Jersey residents without power and snarled rush-hour traffic along several highways, officials said. The malfunction occurred sometime between 4 and 5 p.m. at the JCP&L’s Atlantic Sub-station in Colts Neck, according to New Jersey State Police spokesman, causing a wide-ranging blackout that affected several municipalities in Monmouth and Ocean counties. A First Energy Corp. spokesman said an equipment failure in the sub-station’s power transmission system caused the outage at 4:40 p.m. Initial reports from JCP&L had the power outage at 10,000 customers, but that number continued to increase through the evening.
Source:
http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/08/more_than_70k_monmouth_county.html
4. *August 30, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Geese responsible for power outage in N.H., Mass.** Authorities believe a power outage to 19,000 customers in southern New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts was caused by two geese who flew into a transformer. WMUR-TV reported that National Grid officials said the geese flew into a 28,000-volt power line in Methuen, Massachusetts, cutting off power Monday afternoon. Several circuit breakers opened and power lines came down. About 7,000 customers lost power in New Hampshire, in Salem, Pelham, Windham, and Derry.

Source:

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1278019&srvc=rss>

5. *August 30, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Plant malfunction kills 1,200 trout near Confluence.** A malfunction at a hydroelectric power plant near Confluence, Pennsylvania on the Youghiogheny River killed nearly 1,200 trout, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. A fisherman discovered the dead fish August 27 in pens below the Youghiogheny River Dam in Somerset County, a Corps spokesman said. The fish belonged to the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Investigators determined the fish were deprived of oxygen when a blower at the nearby D/R Hydro Company malfunctioned, kicking off a circuit. The same circuit powered a device that delivered oxygen to the fish. The spokesman said the power company has agreed to provide a dedicated line for the oxygen generator.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/s_697072.html

6. *August 27, Defense Systems* – (National) **Wind power is boon to Army, bane to Air Force and Navy.** The military is harnessing wind to generate power at the same time that troublesome discoveries about the effects of wind turbines on radar are putting military services in conflict with clean-energy efforts. The Army's Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center sees wind power as a key component of future portable power. CERDEC officials wrote on the "Armed With Science" blog at DODLive.mil, that as a follow-up to its Rucksack Enhanced Portable Power System effort, "CERDEC Army Power envisions the next generation of photovoltaic systems to use wind power generation as part of a hybrid system for larger-power demand applications. We call it the Reusing Existing Natural Wind and Solar System, or RENEWS." CERDEC is based at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Across the country, in the Mojave Desert, plans to build even more wind turbines have met with resistance from the military, who say the towers interfere with radar. "The military says that the thousands of existing turbines in the gusty Tehachapi Mountains, to the west of the R-2508 military complex in the Mojave Desert, have already limited its abilities to test airborne radar used for target detection in F/A-18s and other aircraft," the New York Times reported.

Source: <http://defensesystems.com/articles/2010/08/27/military-blowing-in-the-wind.aspx?admgarea=DS>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *August 31, Grand Rapids Press* – (Michigan) **Hazmat called to clean up chemical spill on 28th Street SE in Grand Rapids.** Grand Rapids, Michigan, firefighters and hazardous materials units responded to a chemical spill along 28th Street SE August 31. Crews were called to a building at 100 28th St SE that houses Model Coverall Service Inc. after a mixture of ammonia and other chemicals spilled and combined. No injuries were reported in the accident, which happened about 5:30 a.m. Traffic on 28th Street backed up as drivers slowed to see what was going on. A strong smell of

ammonia filled the air as crews worked inside the building. Fire crews were on the scene for more than 1 hour cleaning up the spill.

Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/08/hazmat_called_to_clean_up_chem.html

8. *August 30, Pasadena Star-News* – (California) **Leaking truck leads to closure of freeway.** Authorities in Pasadena, California, closed the westbound lanes of the 210 Freeway August 30 for 2 hours after a big rig leaking citric acid was pulled over. The leaking rig was spotted at 4:55 p.m. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) said the chemical smelled like ammonia but was later determined to be citric acid. No one was reported injured in the incident, a CHP officer said. She said a SigAlert was issued at 5:17 p.m. for three lanes and the Lincoln Avenue on-ramp. That was later expanded to include all westbound lanes and the on-ramps from Lincoln Avenue to Arroyo Boulevard, she said. The SigAlert was canceled at 7:19 p.m. The CHP officer said two freeway lanes by the Lincoln Avenue on-ramp remained closed as cleanup continued. Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_15944160

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

9. *August 31, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Cause of Yankee fuse failures remains unknown.** Entergy Nuclear engineers were searching August 30 for the cause of an electrical problem that blew seven fuses in seven different power supplies to the control room alarms, putting the Vermont Yankee reactor into a low-level emergency August 29. The emergency was called off after 90 minutes, but the cause of the problem remains unknown, said a spokeswoman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She said August 30 that Entergy employees were “still troubleshooting” and the cause of the electrical problem was unknown. She said it also wasn’t known whether the seven fuses blew one by one as a cascade of problems or all at once. The spokeswoman said Entergy listed the warning lights in the control room, 75 percent of which were affected by the blown fuses Sunday, and are now operable. Source: <http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20100831/NEWS02/708319911/1003/NEWS02>
10. *August 29, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Finnish police arrest 30 at nuclear power plant.** Finnish police arrested 30 demonstrators protesting near a nuclear power plant in Finland August 28 for refusing to follow orders, a police official said. “Police did not have an option but to detain the whole group for refusing to follow police orders,” A spokesman for the Satakunta police told Agence France-Presse. “Thirty people were taken to the Rauma police station” and 10 of them were given fines, he said. The protesters started blocking roads around the Olkiluoto nuclear power plant, in southwestern Finland, early August 28. Finnish media reported that by mid-day, around 150 people were demonstrating. The confrontation with police arose when

a group of protesters refused to get off the main road leading to the power plant. The protesters, some of whom came from Sweden, Germany, France, Russia and Belarus, in addition to Finland, were demanding an end to nuclear power in Finland.

Source: <http://www.swedishwire.com/nordic/5961-finnish-police-arrest-30-at-nuclear-power-plant>

11. *August 28, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Radioactive waste agreement reached.** Texas officials and a West Texas waste processing, storage and disposal facility have reached an agreement that allows hot, low-level radioactive material to be stored at the company's site for up to 3 years. The agreement reached August 27 resolves a dispute over how long the material could be stored. State officials initially wanted a 1-year limit. According to a compliance agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Dallas-based Waste Control Specialists also will revise its inspection plan and properly handle surface water in a drainage ditch at its storage site in Andrews County near the Texas-New Mexico border. The disposal site handles some of the nation's low-level radioactive waste. The company said its remoteness and security make it safe.

Source: <http://www.kvue.com/news/state/Radioactive-waste-agreement-reached-101712903.html>

12. *August 27, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Nuclear agency to discuss crack at Crystal River nuclear plant.** Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will update residents and answer questions about its inspection of the reactor building crack at Progress Energy's nuclear plant in Crystal City, Florida at 10 a.m. September 2. The plant has been shut down since last fall, when workers found that a large area of the building's wall had separated into two layers. Progress Energy has repairs under way, and the commission said the plant will not restart until inspectors are satisfied as to its safety. The public meeting will take place in Room 150 of the plant's training center, 8200 W Venable St., Crystal River.

Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/business/energy/nuclear-agency-to-discuss-crack-at-crystal-river-nuclear-plant/1117950>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

13. *August 31, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Mason County plant fined \$44,000 after explosion.** A Mason County, West Virginia alloy plant must pay \$44,000 for alleged safety violations found following a May explosion that injured four workers. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued 10 citations against Felman Production Inc. following a May 12 inspection prompted by an explosion at a waste dumpster at the site. OSHA cited the company for inadequate hearing and respiratory protections, electrical hazards, improper use of compressed air and illegal exposure of employees to silica, lead and manganese fumes. OSHA classified the citations as serious, meaning there was a substantial probability of death or serious physical harm that was known or should have been known to the employer.

The company has 15 business days to appeal the citations.

Source: <http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/briefs/x1389622232/Mason-County-plant-fined-44-000-after-explosion>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *August 31, Wired.com* – (National) **HP holds Navy network ‘hostage’ for \$3.3 billion.** The U.S. Navy would like to run its networks again, but it is stuck in a tangled relationship with Hewlett-Packard. Admirals and the firm recently signed another \$3.3 billion no-bid contract that begins October 1. It’s a final, 5-year deal, both sides promise, to let the Navy gently wean itself from reliance on HP. To keep core networks running, the Navy is paying Hewlett Packard \$1.8 billion. It will spend another \$1.6 billion to buy from HP equipment troops have worked on for years, and to license network diagrams and configuration documents. In essence, the Navy is paying to look at the blueprints to the network it has been using for a decade. The initial idea behind the project, called the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI), was to combine 15,000 systems into a single network. Original cost: \$4.1 billion for 5 years. Since then, NMCI has grown to become the second largest network in the world, trailing only the Internet itself. More than 700,000 sailors, marines and civilians on nearly 400,000 computers in 620 locations throughout the United States, Japan and Cuba are connected. The network is easier to operate and secure, but promised flexibility has not materialized. “When our computers are not being crippled by updates, and as long as we don’t have to call the help desk for anything (i.e. we don’t have any computer problems),” a Navy civilian e-mailed Danger Room. Worse, HP operates under 10 year old performance metrics. A typical workstation costs the Navy \$2,491 per year, and includes an e-mail inbox with a 50-MB capacity (Gmail’s: 7,500 MB), and 700 MB of network storage. HP isn’t required to take security measures like hard disk encryption, threat heuristics, and network access control that are common today, but were exotic in 2000. “Anti-spam services” runs the Navy \$2.7 million per year. Cleaning up a “data spillage” -- classified information that got placed on an unclassified network -- costs \$11,800 per incident. In 2008, the Navy paid \$5 million to wipe the data from 432 compromised computers. That is 10 times the cost of destroying and replacing the infected machines.

Source: [http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2010/08/hp-holds-navy-network-hostage/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+WiredDangerRoom+\(Blog+-+Danger+Room\)](http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2010/08/hp-holds-navy-network-hostage/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+WiredDangerRoom+(Blog+-+Danger+Room))

15. *August 30, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Navy’s ‘green’ ship delayed by glitch.** The Navy’s “green” ship, the San Diego, California-based Makin Island, is having mechanical trouble even before it makes its maiden deployment, though naval officials said the glitch is not related to the ship’s first-of-its-kind “hybrid drive.” Sailors preparing for the vessel’s final check-out run in mid-August discovered that the amphibious assault ship had damage to a turning gear. The damaged part is used to prepare one of the ship’s main gears by warming up the system before full operation

and cooling it down after use. The repair work, being done at San Diego Naval Base, will be complete in mid-September. The glitch is pushing back the ship's final contract trials, which are designed to reveal any defects before the Navy completely accepts the ship. The final trials are usually done 6 months after the ship is received by the Navy. The Makin Island was delivered by shipbuilder Northrop Grumman in April 2009, and was commissioned in October 2009 at its home port of San Diego.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/aug/30/navys-green-ship-has-glitch-not-new-technology/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *August 31, Elgin Courier-News* – (Illinois) **Phone scam uses credit union name as bait.** A number of Elgin, Illinois residents have reported receiving an automated phone message over the past several days, which authorities have warned is nothing more than a scam. A city spokeswoman said police received more than 30 complaints over the weekend from people reporting to have received a recorded message from someone claiming to be a representative of the Elgin-based Kane County Teachers Credit Union, 111 S. Hawthorne St. The automated message states that there is a problem with an ATM card and directs the recipient to press “1” to be connected to a security department. The KCT Credit Union vice president of marketing said the financial institution is not responsible for, or connected with, the messages being sent. She urged anyone who receives such a call never to give out any personal information, but instead contact a credit union branch directly for more information.

Source:

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/couriernews/news/2655470,3_1_EL31_04CAL_LS_S1-100831.article

17. *August 31, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **‘JV Bandit’ bank robber struck again Saturday, FBI says.** A man suspected of being the FBI’s “JV Bandit” robbed the Chase Bank at 3850 North Wadsworth Blvd. in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, August 28, the agency said August 30. He is suspected of robbing the same bank August 11. The JV Bandit, so called because he often wears sportswear during robberies, is suspected in at least four other bank robberies in the metro area since October 2008. He is also a suspect in the robbery of the 1st Bank at 4350 North Wadsworth Blvd. in Wheat Ridge July 13. The other three robberies were in 2008: the Chase Bank at 14417 West Colfax Ave. in Lakewood, the Key Bank at 1222 Arapahoe St. in Golden and the U.S. Bank at 1801 Jackson St. in Golden, the FBI stated.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/technology/ci_15944067

18. *August 30, Krebs on Security* – (Iowa) **Crooks who stole \$600,000 from Catholic diocese said money was for clergy sex abuse victims.** Organized cyber thieves stole more than \$600,000 from the Catholic Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa earlier in August. The funds were spirited away with the help of dozens of unwitting co-conspirators hired through work-at-home job scams, at least one of whom was told the money was

being distributed to victims of the Catholic Church sex abuse scandals, KrebsOnSecurity.com has learned. In a statement released recently, the diocese said the fraud occurred between August 13 and August 16, apparently after criminals had stolen the diocese's online banking credentials. The diocese was alerted to the fraud August 17 by its financial institution, Bankers Trust of Des Moines. The diocese also said the FBI and U.S. Treasury Department were notified, and that the FBI had taken possession of several diocesan computers. To date, roughly \$180,000 has been recovered. The diocese added that law enforcement had advised them that the theft seems to have been the work of a highly sophisticated operation based overseas, which moved the stolen money out of the United States by recruiting people who unknowingly acted as intermediaries.

Source: <http://krebsonsecurity.com/2010/08/crooks-who-stole-600000-from-catholic-diocese-said-money-was-for-clergy-sex-abuse-victims/>

19. *August 30, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Police warn Jupiter businesses of phone scam trying to steal credit card numbers.** Police August 30 issued a warning about a scam artist who is calling Jupiter, Florida businesses pretending to be a police officer in order to extract customers' credit card information from intimidated employees. Authorities said the scammer calls up and claims he or she is either from the West Palm Beach Police Department or the FBI, then claims to need a list of the business' customers and credit card numbers as part of a fraud investigation. In at least one of the cases, the scammer has threatened to execute a search warrant on the business if the employee did not cooperate. A Jupiter police sergeant advised business owners and employees never to give out sensitive financial information over the phone. "We don't seek out that information over the phone, even if we were conducting an investigation," he said. "If someone says they're an officer investigating something, tell them you'd be happy to cooperate but have them come in."

Source: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/crime/police-warn-jupiter-businesses-of-phone-scam-trying-887609.html>

20. *August 27, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. seeks extradition of Caribbean Ponzi schemer.** U.S. authorities want to extradite from the Turks and Caicos Islands a Jamaican banker accused of running a Ponzi scheme that bilked investors out of nearly \$300 million in one of the Caribbean's biggest financial fraud cases, a law enforcement official said August 27. U.S. prosecutors have filed criminal charges against a suspect who is currently under investigation but on bail in the Turks and Caicos, a British overseas territory. The suspect faces fraud, money laundering and other charges in the Turks and Caicos, said the deputy senior investigator of the Turks and Caicos special investigation and prosecution team. "It's alleged that he's run a Ponzi scheme to the tune of about \$300 million," the special investigator told Reuters. In a court filing earlier in August in Orlando, Florida, U.S. prosecutors said the suspect defrauded thousands of investors from the United States, Jamaica and other Caribbean territories, promising his investments in foreign currency trading would yield monthly average returns of 10 percent. Among the affected were investors in Florida, which has been hit by a number of high-profile Ponzi schemes in recent years, including fallout from the massive fraud scandals surrounding a convicted Wall Street swindler, and an accused

Texas financier.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67Q5YE20100827>

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Transportation Sector

21. *August 31, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **747 makes it back to SFO after engine explodes.** A Qantas Airways flight made an emergency landing at San Francisco International Airport early August 31 after an engine exploded in mid-air, authorities said. The Boeing 747 with 212 passengers on board had departed San Francisco for Sydney, Australia at about 11:10 p.m. August 30. But 45 minutes into the flight, an explosion ripped through the No. 4 engine on the right side of the four-engine plane, creating a large hole, authorities said. The pilot declared an emergency, dumped fuel over the Pacific Ocean as a precaution, and returned to the airport at 12:45 a.m., said the airport duty manager. Airport fire trucks surrounded the plane as it arrived. No one was injured in the incident, and the passengers were put up in hotels for the night. The cause of the engine failure is under investigation.
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/08/31/BA021F67JO.DTL>
22. *August 31, Associated Press* – (California) **Pilot returns to LAX because of bird strike.** An Alaska Airlines flight returned to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) August 30 after the pilot reported a bird had struck the plane. A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said the Flight 707 plane took off from LAX and was about a mile and a half west of the airport when the pilot reported the strike above the windshield. The pilot returned to the airport so the plane could be checked for damage. There were no reports of injuries or damage to the plane.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/31/AR2010083100293.html>
23. *August 31, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Palm Beach airport cleared after bomb threat.** A concourse at Palm Beach International Airport was evacuated for about 1 hour August 30 as officials investigated a bomb threat. The Transportation Security Administration said the threat targeted a flight to New York's LaGuardia Airport. Passengers disembarked as authorities inspected the plane and luggage. Flights were allowed to resume and passengers returned to the concourse after officials determined the threat wasn't credible.
Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/08/31/1800233/palm-beach-airport-cleared-after.html>
24. *August 31, Bloomberg* – (International) **Men held by Dutch said to be unlikely to plot attack.** Two men being held by Dutch authorities after arriving on a flight from the United States are unlikely to have been planning a terrorist attack, two American law enforcement officials said. Dutch authorities earlier had said the two men, of Yemeni descent, were being held on possible involvement in preparing a terrorist act after

arriving in Schipol Airport near Amsterdam August 30 on a flight from Chicago, Illinois. The U.S. residents didn't know each other, according to law enforcement officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is continuing. There is no evidence to suggest terrorism, they said. One of the men's checked bags aroused suspicion because it contained a mobile phone taped to a Pepto-Bismol bottle, and other phones and watches strapped together as well as several knives and at least one box-cutter, officials said. A failed attempt to blow up a U.S. airliner bound for Detroit December 25 originated in Amsterdam. On August 31, the Dutch national prosecutor, in a statement to reporters at Schipol, said the arrests of the two men took place based on information from U.S. authorities. "In a few days, it will be made public if they will be charged," he said. He noted that mobile phones found in the luggage were seized by U.S. authorities. Earlier, airport screeners in Birmingham, Alabama, had inspected checked baggage belonging one of the men, who was carrying \$7,000 in cash, and found items taped together in various configurations, the law enforcement official said. When no explosives were found, the man was allowed to fly to Chicago, where he met the second man and boarded United Airlines Flight 908 to Amsterdam, the official said. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security released a statement saying that "suspicious items" found in the checked baggage "were not deemed to be dangerous in and of themselves." While the man from Detroit headed to Amsterdam, the luggage containing the suspicious items was checked on to a flight to Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Virginia and then to Yemen, the law enforcement official said. Security employees ordered the Dulles-bound flight back to the gate in Chicago, and retrieved the luggage after finding that the passenger wasn't on board, said another U.S. official who asked not to be named.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-08-31/dutch-police-arrest-men-after-suspicious-bags-found.html>

25. *August 31, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Mistakes rise for area air traffic controllers.** Onboard systems intended to keep airliners from colliding in midair have been triggered more than 45 times this year in the skies over Washington D.C. as air traffic controllers have made dangerous mistakes at a record-setting pace. With 38 officially reported errors this year, the controllers who guide planes to and from the region's airports already have exceeded annual error totals for every year since their facility began operation in 2003. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) dispatched a safety review team to the Warrenton, Virginia facility in July after a controller error resulted in a United Airlines flight narrowly missing a collision with a 22-seat Gulfstream business jet. The review team found that "more than 45 such events have been documented this calendar year" in which the avoidance alert systems have been triggered in the airspace controlled by the Potomac Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON), according to an internal FAA summary. Two of the closest calls in August involved four airplanes, carrying a total of 589 people, and included one incident in which a Delta 737 was turned into the potentially deadly turbulent wake of a United 757 as the two planes flew along the Potomac River on final approach to Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Virginia.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/30/AR2010083005257.html>

26. *August 30, AOL News* – (International) **Cruise ship hits unmapped rock off Canada, passengers evacuated.** The Canadian coast guard ferried passengers and crew off the Clipper Adventurer after the expedition cruise ship ran aground on an unmapped rock in the Canadian Arctic. Adventure Canada, which operates the ship, said the incident occurred off Nunavut, as the ship was en-route from Port Epworth to the small town of Kugluktuk, in the Arctic Ocean. “At the time, the seas were calm, sunny conditions and good visibility with no wind or swell,” the company said in a statement. The owner of Adventure Canada said the Clipper Adventurer was steaming along “and very abruptly the ship stopped and we found our self perched on a rock.” The crew tried to dislodge the vessel at high tide. When that failed the coast guard came in with the icebreaker, Amundsen. The cruise ship had 128 passengers and 69 crew members onboard. No one was injured in the incident. The cruises are popular with those looking to see whales and other wildlife.
Source: <http://news.travel.aol.com/2010/08/30/cruise-ship-hits-unmapped-rock-off-canada-passengers-evacuated/>
27. *August 30, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **No answers yet in Atlanta airport bomb scare.** Atlanta, Georgia police said they have still not determined what triggered a bomb scare August 30 at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. A police spokesman said a suspicious package was found in a piece of luggage at a curbside check-in area. Dispatchers said it looked like a pipe bomb. The bomb squad removed the luggage from the area. The airport was not evacuated and traffic wasn’t affected.
Source: <http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=231862>
28. *August 30, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Engine apparently on fire as US Airways Charlotte flight lands at National Airport.** A US Airways flight landed at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Virginia August 28 with flames apparently spurting from the area of one of its engines. A spokeswoman for the airline said the crew of Flight 1764 declared an emergency as a precaution because of a “mechanical issue” that occurred as the Airbus 319 was making its approach from Charlotte about 7 p.m. Video shown on WRC-TV (Channel 4) showed what appeared to be fire in the area of the engine beneath the airplane’s left wing. The airline spokeswoman said that the plane, with 81 passengers and a crew of five, landed without incident.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/29/AR2010082904223.html>
29. *August 30, WFTS 28 Tampa* – (Virginia) **Nine passengers pulled off DC-to-Tampa flight.** Nine passengers were pulled off a Tampa, Florida-bound flight August 29 after one of them made a comment to a crewmember before takeoff, according to a United Airlines spokeswoman. She would not elaborate on the nature of the comment, or who the people were. The spokeswoman said that United employees came to the gate at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Virginia and spoke with the crew, who said they did not want to travel with the group. After speaking with passengers, United determined they could be re-booked on an August 30 flight. Flight 727 was delayed about 2 and 1/2 hours, but the plane did take off from Dulles August 29. The remaining passengers landed in Tampa just before 2 a.m.

Source: http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_tampa/9-passengers-pulled-off-dc-to-tampa-flight

30. *August 30, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Gloucester bridge reopened after construction fire.** The Annisquam River bridge on state Route 128 in Gloucester, Massachusetts is being reopened to traffic after a fire in a construction area beneath it. There are no reports of injuries or damage to the bridge, which is undergoing renovation expected to finish next summer. A spokesman for the state transportation department said fire was put out by Gloucester firefighters August 30. He said the state renovation project includes replacing the wearing surface of the bridge deck, along with work on the superstructure and part of the substructure of the bridge. A Gloucester firefighter said numerous crews responded, along with hazardous materials specialists, because of paint, compressors and other potentially hazardous construction items.

Source:

http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20100830construction_fire_closes_gloucester_bridge/srv=home&position=recent

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Postal and Shipping Sector

31. *August 28, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Feds arrest Texan in powder-filled letters hoax.** Federal agents have arrested a Dallas man for allegedly mailing white powder-filled envelopes to Internal Revenue Service and social security offices in Texas and Maryland. The 51-year-old suspect, who was taken into custody August 26, appeared before a federal magistrate August 27, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas said in a statement. It was not immediately known whether the suspect had an attorney. Investigators said they do not believe the suspect is responsible for sending threatening letters containing suspicious white powder to several U.S. embassies and governors' offices 3 years ago. They said they also doubt he recently sent 30 more such letters to churches, mosques and aeronautical and technical businesses in Texas, Illinois and Massachusetts.

Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9HS53702.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

32. *August 31, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Small chlorine leak at General Mills plant in Iowa.** Officials are looking for the source of a small chlorine leak at a General Mills Inc. plant near Carlisle, Iowa. A representative from the Des Moines Fire Department said alarms in a chlorine storage room went off around 4 a.m. August 31. A haz-mat team from Des Moines was sent to the plant. There was an odor of chlorine and the team's instruments got a "slight hit," but emergency crews could not pinpoint the

source and the odor then dissipated, he said. A vent may have released a small amount of chlorine. There were no injuries and no evacuation was ordered. Carlisle is about 12 miles southeast of Des Moines.

Source: http://www.kgan.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.ia/2b125899-www.kgan.com.shtml

33. *August 31, CNN* – (Iowa; National) **FDA reports numerous violations at egg farms.** Rodents, piles of manure, uncaged birds and flies too numerous to count were found by investigators at Iowa farms at the heart of the recall of more than half a billion eggs, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported August 30. Inspection reports released by the FDA noted numerous violations at six farms operated by Wright County Egg and Quality Egg, which are owned by the same family, and three Hillandale Farms locations. The inspections — conducted in August, after new egg safety rules went into effect — were launched in response to the nationwide outbreaks of salmonella that have sickened an estimated 1,470 people, according to the FDA. Neither company fully adhered to their Salmonella enteritidis prevention plans, the inspectors said. Federal investigators found salmonella bacteria in chicken feed and in barn and walkway areas at some of the farms, officials said the week of August 23. Health officials August 30 detailed plans to launch an inspection program of these and other facilities in the coming weeks.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/08/30/eggs.salmonella/?hpt=T2>

34. *August 31, CNN* – (International) **Cancun, Mexico, bar bombed; 8 dead.** Eight people died August 31 after attackers hurled several Molotov cocktails into a Cancun, Mexico, bar, the state attorney general said. Six women and two men, all Mexican nationals and employees of the tavern, were killed in the 1:30 a.m. strike, now under investigation by judicial police, according to a release from the attorney general for the state of Quintana Roo. Eight men hurled the explosives at the bar and fled in vehicles, the release said. No shots were fired. Although the tavern is just 5 kilometers from the city's tourist stretch, it sits apart from the area frequented by tourists, and the clientele is composed of locals, it said. Four of those slain died of burns and the others of asphyxiation, the release said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/08/31/mexico.bar.attack/index.html?hpt=T2>

35. *August 30, Drovers* – (National) **Test finds E. coli in beef faster, could better trace outbreaks.** Infrared spectroscopy can detect E. coli faster than current testing methods and can cut days off investigations of outbreaks, according to a study at Purdue University. An associate professor of food science detected E. coli in ground beef in 1 hour using Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, much less than the 48 hours required for conventional plating technology, which requires culturing cells in a laboratory. She said spectroscopy could be done in the same laboratories, just in much less time. The spectroscopy method also differentiates between strains of E. coli 0157:H7, meaning outbreaks could be tracked more effectively and quickly. Current tests involve multiple steps and take almost 1 week to obtain results.

Source: http://www.drovers.com/news_editorial.asp?pgID=675&ed_id=7790

For more stories, see items [5](#) and [8](#)

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Water Sector

36. *August 31, KXAN 21 Austin* – (Texas) **Austin cleaning up big wastewater spill.** The city of Austin, Texas, is cleaning up a wastewater spill in a heavily wooded area of eastern Travis County. On August 30 a city contractor discovered sewage leaking from a manhole at the corner of Loyola Lane and Wentworth Drive, near Elm Creek. City officials estimate at least 100,000 gallons of sewage spilled into the creek, and said that residents and their pets should avoid the water there until crews can clean up the spill. Crews have the spill under control and are currently working to create a bypass so repairs can be made. Austin Water Utility officials are still looking for what caused the big backup, but officials said the spill will not affect the city's drinking water.
Source: <http://www.kxan.com/dpp/elections/local/wastewater-spill-discovered>
37. *August 30, Capital Public Radio* – (California) **Study looks at dairy antibiotics in groundwater.** A University of California, Davis (UC Davis) report said antibiotics given to dairy cows can end up on the ground — but are mostly broken down before they reach groundwater. But a clean water advocate with the Community Water Center said scientists did not examine whether those antibiotics degraded into other chemicals. “Our concern with this study is that it just looks at the antibiotics and not the breakdown and degrade products from the antibiotics. And so I think this is really just a first step.” The UC Davis researcher who helped conduct the study, agrees. “It’s possible that some of those degrade into other forms that we haven’t looked for in this particular study, and that’s something that certainly still needs to be looked at.” California dairies typically give antibiotics to calves or sick cows but not to lactating or “milking” adult cows. The clean water advocate said 90 percent of public water systems in the San Joaquin Valley in California rely on groundwater for their drinking water sources.
Source: <http://www.capradio.org/articles/articledetail.aspx?articleid=8672>
38. *August 30, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Estimates on Redwood Shores spill off by 43,000 gallons.** What initially was thought to be 5,000 gallons of raw sewage that spilled into the 140-acre Redwood Shores Lagoon in Redwood City, California last week turned out to be 48,000 gallons, officials said August 30. Redwood City officials said the basin continues to show high levels of E. coli in some areas and they are warning residents — with posters, e-mail alerts and in person — to keep their distance from the area. The spill, brought to the city’s attention August 25, was caused by a main break in the sewer line near Davit Lane and Anchor Circle. Raw sewage gushed into the street and the garages of six nearby homes and onto some driveways. The pressurized pipe was repaired and replaced by August 26 between 8 and 10 p.m., and city employees and contractors conducted cleanup efforts at the homes August 27. Early measurements showed that the pipe was leaking 300 gallons of sewage per minute and, thinking the cause was a valve failure, city officials figured the flow could

be stopped in 20 to 30 minutes. However, after hours of excavation, experts discovered a far more serious — and time-consuming — situation. Since the pipe repair, tests have been conducted, air valves inspected and controls reset. The city's main trouble remains with the lagoon.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15945893?ncllick_check=1

39. *August 30, Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle* – (Tennessee) **Secondary sewage treatment to resume Tuesday.** Secondary sewage treatment is expected to resume August 31 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the first time since the facility was knocked offline by May flooding in Clarksville, Tennessee. Clarksville Gas and Water (CGW) officials called it a major milestone in the recovery phase, which has cost around \$14 million to date. Secondary treatment consists of disinfecting sewage in large basins (2 million gallons each) filled with microorganisms. The basins are fed oxygen by large air blowers, needed by the organisms for treatment. In its absence, CGW has been treating sewage with some 1,300 gallons of bleach daily; when fully functional, the plant uses a fraction of that. Primary treatment — the removal of most solids — was reinstated within about 1 week of the flood itself. Still, much remains to be done. Plant officials are now estimating the recovery project will cost \$100 million to complete.

Source: <http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100830/NEWS01/100830010>

40. *August 30, WBRZ 2 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Hydrogen peroxide leak causes apartment evacuation.** A crew cleaned up a liquid hydrogen peroxide leak behind an apartment complex in north Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that led to the evacuation of residents of eight apartments early August 30. The hydrogen peroxide leaked from a tank at a waste treatment station behind the Kelly Trace Apartments at the corner of Chinn Street and Rosenwald Road. The call came in around 3 a.m. and about a dozen people were evacuated from the eight apartments. The cause of the leak and how much came out is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/police/101799078.html>

41. *August 29, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Body of Atlanta wastewater employee found.** After more than 24 hours of searching, officials with Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management said the body of an employee who apparently fell into a channel at the R.M. Clayton Water Reclamation Facility in Atlanta, Georgia August 27 has been found. Authorities said the man is the employee who apparently fell into the water and drowned while conducting a routine water sample test August 27. His body was found around 12:30 p.m. the next day, several yards from the channel he fell into. The night of August 28, officials said his body was still in the water, and rescuers in protective gear were working to carefully remove it. They say that because of the contents of the wastewater, doing that safely is a challenge. Officials said the deceased man had been working at the plant for about 6 months. The city of Atlanta will conduct an investigation into his death.

Source: http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/local_news/body-of-atlanta-wastewater-employee-found-20100828-es

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

42. *August 27, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **Pentagon Pulls \$1B from WMD-Defense Efforts to Fund Vaccine Initiative.** The U.S. Defense Department has shifted more than \$1 billion out of its nuclear, biological, and chemical defense programs to underwrite a new White House priority on vaccine development and production to combat disease pandemics, according to government and industry officials. The planned funding reduction “terminates essential CBRN [chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear] defense programs ... required to meet high priority service needs, prevent casualties and protect against CBRN incidents,” according to a Pentagon budget document drafted in early August. Internal deliberations over the budget have been ongoing for months as the government prepares to submit its fiscal 2012 spending request to Congress next February.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100827_5297.php

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Government Facilities Sector

43. *August 31, KNDO 2 Yakima* – (Washington) **Bomb threat forces evacuation of Grant County Courthouse Monday.** Law enforcement officers in Grant County are trying to figure out who called in a bomb threat to the courthouse in Ephrata, Washington August 30. The caller stated a person with an explosive device was going to the courthouse. About 150-people were evacuated after the call about 8:15 a.m. Sheriff’s deputies, Ephrata police and Washington State Troopers secured the courthouse and conducted a room-by-room search, but nothing was found. Courthouse occupants were allowed back inside after about 1 hour. Access to the courthouse was limited for the rest of the business day to maintain security of the courthouse.

Source: <http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=13070904>

44. *August 31, Air Force News Services* – (National) **Air Force officials urge operational security vigilance.** Fraudsters continue to hijack accounts on social networking sites and spread malicious software, FBI officials said. One technique entices users to download an application or view a video that appears to be sent from users’ “friends,” giving the perception of being legitimate. Once the user responds to the phishing site, downloads the application, or clicks on the video link, her computer becomes infected. With the influx of social media, Web 2.0 platforms and subsequent ease in sharing of sensitive and personally identifying information, Airmen should consider the risks and vulnerabilities in both personal and official activities, Air Force officials said. Airmen using non-classified systems must ensure they are not posting classified, restricted distribution, proprietary or For Official Use Only information on public Web sites to include Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blog sites, etc. “We’re starting to see a loss of sensitive information occurring at an alarming rate,” said a spokesman from the information protection directorate. “This information not only affects the user, but can impact millions of Americans through medical, payroll and military service records.” The official said release of personally identifiable information is also a concern. This

includes any information about an individual maintained by an agency, including, but not limited to, education, financial transactions, medical history, and criminal or employment history. It also includes information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as name, Social Security number, date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, and any other personal information which can be linked or linkable to an individual.

Source: <http://www.afmc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123219924>

45. *August 30, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Armed man fatally shot at Tennessee high school.** An armed man was fatally shot by deputies August 30 at a Blountville, Tennessee high school after he went inside and pointed a gun at the principal's head, a sheriff said. "There's no doubt in my mind he went there to kill someone today," the Sullivan County sheriff said at an August 30 news conference, hours after the gunfire at Sullivan Central High School. "I don't know who, and I don't know why." No students or teachers were hurt and school was dismissed at 10:30 a.m. EDT. The sheriff said the 62-year-old gunman confronted a security officer Monday morning after entering the school about 9 a.m. The gunman entered the school with a .380-caliber semiautomatic and a .25-caliber handgun in his back pocket, the sheriff said. The sheriff said that after the gunman grabbed the principal and pointed the semiautomatic at her head, a student resource officer pulled her gun on the gunman and moved the principal to safety. The suspect said the student resource officer moved the gunman down the hall and away from the cafeteria to a science pod. When Sullivan County deputies arrived, they ordered the gunman to drop his weapon, and he allegedly pointed it in their direction. He then pointed it back toward the school resource officer, prompting deputies to fire, the sheriff said.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hXDRr4xADS5PSc21wuDgH1LK2XswD9HU25J01>

46. *August 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Ex-Army analyst from OK. arrested at Minn. airport.** A former U.S. Army analyst from Oklahoma was arrested in Minneapolis, Minnesota while trying to board a one-way flight to China with electronic files containing a restricted Army field manual, authorities said August 27. Federal prosecutors said the 26-year-old suspect allegedly was carrying multiple data storage devices when he was arrested August 26 at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The suspect was charged August 26 in Oklahoma City with one count of theft of government property, which carries a maximum sentence of 1 year in prison. The defense attorney said the charge is a misdemeanor. The suspect made his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in St. Paul, Minnesota, August 27. A detention hearing was scheduled for August 30 to determine when the suspect will be returned to Oklahoma, said a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oklahoma City. The suspect worked as an analyst at Oklahoma's Fort Sill until August 16, when his clearance was revoked due to security violations, according to an FBI affidavit in the case. The affidavit did not disclose the nature of the violations.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gtoVQcxQo_WywP0PHdUxmKDtgDDwD9HS3LO00

47. *August 28, The Hill* – (Pennsylvania) **Man charged with threatening to shoot Congresswoman's staff.** A Philadelphia man is in federal custody after allegedly threatening to shoot members of a Pennsylvania Congresswoman's staff, according to reports August 28. The FBI said the 44-year-old suspect called the Congresswoman's office August 25 regarding his lost dentures and complained the Congresswoman has never done anything for him despite always getting his vote. When he did not get the response he wanted, the suspect told the staff member on the phone that he was a former Marine with access to a rifle. He then threatened to get on a bus, stand on the roof across the street, and shoot staff members in the Congresswoman's Philadelphia office. The suspect later called back and spoke with a second staff member and told them he was a patient at Aria Hospital in Philadelphia. When an FBI agent went to interview the suspect at the hospital, he had already been discharged. Hospital officials had expressed concern about his mental state but were unable to commit him for a psychiatric evaluation without his consent. Later that night FBI agents visited the suspect's apartment accompanied by his girlfriend and arrested him. The U.S. Attorney's office said the suspect will be detained pending a psychiatric evaluation and a hearing to see if he is competent to stand trial.
Source: <http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/116225-man-charged-with-threatening-to-shoot-congresswomans-staff>

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Emergency Services Sector

48. *August 31, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **3 die in medical helicopter crash in Arkansas.** Three crew members were killed August 30 when the medical helicopter they were aboard crashed in central Arkansas. The Air Evac Lifeteam helicopter was flying to pick up a traffic accident victim when it went down near the Scotland community in Van Buren County at about 4:30 a.m., a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said. The Bell 206 helicopter, built in 1978, was registered to Air Evac EMS Inc., based in West Plains, Missouri, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/31/AR2010083101968.html>
49. *August 30, WALA 10 Mobile* – (Alabama) **Dean responds to EMA money woes.** The emergency alert system is designed to call people when there is an emergency, like the chemical leak that happened at Millard Refrigerated Services in Theodore, Alabama. But people who live near the site never got a call. According to public documents obtained by FOX10, the entire system cost \$350,000. Sixty-thousand dollars is paid by the county, \$105,000 by the city, and \$185,000 by the Alabama Emergency

Management Agency (EMA). But the contract with EMA was canceled in November. So the people who live in the unincorporated areas of Mobile County do not have the service. EMA leaders said they do not have the money to fund the system. So, a county commissioner wants to pass the bill to companies like Millard.

Source: http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/local_news/mobile_county/mike-dean-responds-to-ema-money-woes

50. *August 30, Monroe News-Star* – (Louisiana) **Parishes make new evacuation system.** After the evacuees were out of the Monroe Civic Center in Monroe, Louisiana and all the repairs were made, local officials joined the rest of the state with lessons learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Five years later, these same local officials have partnered with other parishes to make evacuating from the south to the north as smooth as possible. They call it a point-to-point system, and the city of Monroe has already reached agreements with three parishes and devised a system that they hope will bring more structure to the evacuation process. The city of Monroe has reached cooperative endeavor agreements with Terrebonne, Lafourche, and St. John the Baptist parishes. Terrebonne Parish evacuees have been designated the Monroe Civic Center, while the Harvey H. Benoit and Emily Parker Robinson Community Centers will serve as shelter for evacuees from Lafourche Parish.
- Source: <http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20100830/NEWS01/8300322>
51. *August 27, KETV 7 Omaha* – (Nebraska) **Leak at Sarpy 911 forced dispatchers to evacuate.** A carbon monoxide leak left Sarpy County 911 in Papillion, Nebraska without a dispatch center for 2 hours August 26. A couple of dispatchers and a visitor at the center got sick from the fumes, authorities said. Emergency calls had to be rerouted to Douglas County, delaying responders. Papillion firefighters evacuated the dispatch center about 10 p.m. They found a leak in a water heater in the furnace room nearby. All 911 calls from Sarpy County transfer to Douglas County operators, sheriff's deputies from both counties, La Vista, Papillion, and Bellevue police using the same channels as Omaha police. But some Bellevue officers did not hear the calls. Half of the portable radios do not carry the Douglas County channels. Police and those at the Sarpy County 911 center said the evacuation exposed some weaknesses in their system. They said they hope to have them fixed in the event that a disaster shuts down the center.
- Source: <http://www.ketv.com/r/24788589/detail.html>

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Information Technology Sector

52. *August 31, Computerworld* – (International) **Google disputes bug patching report.** Google August 30 said that a recent report claiming it failed to patch a third of the serious bugs in its software had the facts wrong. IBM's X-Force security company, which released the report last week, acknowledged the error and issued a revised chart that shows Google patched all the vulnerabilities rated "critical" or "high" in its online services. "We questioned a number of surprising findings concerning Google's

vulnerability rate and response record, and after discussions with IBM, we discovered a number of errors that had important implications for the report's conclusions," said a security program manager at Google in an entry on a company blog. Recently, X-Force's report claimed that 9 percent of all Google bugs disclosed in the first half of 2010 were unpatched, and 33 percent of the vulnerabilities ranked as critical or high had not been fixed. According to IBM's revised tabulations, Google patched every vulnerability revealed in the first 6 months of this year.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9182818/Google_disputes_bug_patching_report

53. *August 31, SC Magazine UK* – (International) **Badly configured networks believed to be the main cause of network breaches.** Misconfigured networks account for more than three quarters of breaches. A survey found that a badly configured network is the main cause of network breaches because IT professionals "don't know what to look for." The survey, conducted by Tufin, also revealed that 18 percent of security experts believe misconfigured networks are the result of insufficient time or money for audits, while 14 percent felt that compliance audits that do not always capture security best practices are a factor. The CTO and co-founder of Tufin said: "The really big question coming out of the survey is how to manage the risk that organizations run dealing with the complexity that is part and parcel of any medium-to-large sized company's security operations. Almost half of the respondents (43 percent) also claimed that planting a rogue member of staff inside a company was one of the most successful hacking methodologies. However, 58 percent of attendees said they did not believe outsourcing security to a third party increased the chances of getting hacked, and almost half the sample believe it would not increase the chances of any sort of security or compliance issue.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/badly-configured-networks-believed-to-be-the-main-cause-of-network-breaches/article/177911/>

54. *August 31, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Update scam targets TweetDeck users.** Users of Twitter management app TweetDeck have been warned not to click on links that claim to be an update for the site but actually contain a Trojan program. The application is set for a genuine overhaul starting August 31 as part of an update to Twitter itself, and the scammers have used the situation to launch the malicious links. A member of the TweetDeck team explained in a blog post that users should ignore the updates. "We are seeing a number of updates on Twitter urging users to download a file called 'tweetdeck-08302010-update.exe' from a URL beginning with <http://alturl.com/>. These tweets are from hacked accounts and this file does not come from us," it read. The firm added that users should download updates to the application only from the TweetDeck Web site. TweetDeck also explained five of the most popular ways the fake updates arrive, including, "TweetDeck will work until tomorrow, update now!" and "Hurry up for tweetdeck update!". The changes to Twitter August 31 causing apps such as TweetDeck to issue their own site updates center around the move to OAuth, an authentication method which allows users to use third party apps without them storing

their passwords.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2268936/tweetdeck-users-targeted-update>

55. *August 31, SC Magazine UK* – (International) **Service provider of German chemist exposes personal details of around 150,000 customers.** The details of around 150,000 customers of the German chemist chain Schlecker have been exposed. According to a report by The Local, the mistake was the fault of an external service provider, which has since been fixed and the data is no longer available online. The data included first and second names, addresses, genders, e-mail addresses and customer profiles, with a further 7.1 million e-mail addresses of customers receiving the firm's newsletter also available. A spokesperson for Schlecker said account numbers and passwords were never vulnerable. An information-protection specialist who discovered the data online, said: "We stumbled on this data breach by accident. Then we realized: this is no data leak, this is a wide-open door. They (cyber criminals) would write to the customers in the name of Schlecker -- directly over the publicly available mail server. The customer would trust the correspondent, thinking, 'Yes, it's Schlecker.' They would make purchases and hand over their bank details." On August, 27 Schlecker offered its online customers a voucher to the value of 5 euros via e-mail, a company spokesman confirmed. It states that it is not a compensation payment but "a general goodwill gesture." A spokesman for the firm confirmed media reports that the personal data of online customers had for an unspecified time found their way onto the Internet and were available to any Web user.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/service-provider-of-german-chemist-exposes-personal-details-of-around-150000-customers/article/177912/>

56. *August 30, The Register* – (International) **Apple QuickTime backdoor creates code-execution peril.** A security researcher has unearthed a "bizarre" flaw in Apple's QuickTime Player that can be exploited to remotely execute malicious code on Windows-based PCs, even those running the most recent versions of operating system. Technically, the inclusion of an unused parameter known as "_Marshaled_pUnk" is a backdoor because it is the work of an Apple developer who added it to the QuickTime code base and then, most likely, forgot to remove it when it was no longer needed. It sat largely undetected for at least 9 years until a researcher of Spain-based security firm Wintercore discovered it and realized it could be exploited to take full control of machines running Windows 7, Microsoft's most secure operating system to date. "The bug is pretty bizarre," the CSO of Rapid7 and chief architect of the Metasploit project told The Register August 30. "It's not a standard vulnerability in the sense that a feature was implemented poorly. It was more kind of a leftover development piece that was left in production. It's probably an oversight." The presence of _Marshaled_pUnk creates the equivalent of an object pointer that an attacker can use to funnel malicious code into computer memory.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/08/30/apple_quicktime_critical_vuln/

57. *August 30, IDG News Service* – (International) **Cisco patches bug that crashed 1 percent of Internet.** Cisco has fixed a bug in its Internetwork Operating System (IOS) router software that contributed to a brief Internet blackout last week, thought to have

affected about 1 percent of the Internet. The bug was discovered August 27 when the RIPE NCC (Reseaux IP Europeens Network Coordination Centre) and researchers at Duke University started distributing experimental BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) data via RIPE NCC's systems. A large number of routers became unreachable within minutes and the experiment was quickly stopped. The Border Gateway Protocol is used by routers to find the best ways to send traffic to each other on the Internet. Because it is very easy for bad BGP data to spread quickly, security experts have warned it could someday be misused to seriously disrupt the Internet. It turned out that routers that were running Cisco's IOS XR operating system took the experimental data — which was much larger than typical BGP routing information — corrupted it, and then passed that corrupted information on to other routers. Many of the routers simply closed connections with the Cisco routers that sent the buggy data, causing part of the Internet to become inaccessible. In a security advisory released just hours after the incident, Cisco confirmed the August 27 incident disclosed the bug. The experiment made it difficult to reach some networks in more than 60 countries, according to Renesys' General Manager, who blogged about the issue August 27. More than 3,500 “prefixes,” or blocks of Internet Protocol address space, were affected, he said. There are just over 333,000 such prefixes on the Internet, according to the Web site Cidr-report.org.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUS418825996320100831>

58. *August 30, The H Security* – (International) **Microsoft tool for DLL vulnerability interferes with some applications.** Microsoft's tool to protect against the DLL hijacking vulnerability results in some programs no longer working properly. Users who want to use the tool to prevent attackers from passing infected libraries to trusted applications should set the new registry key DWORD value to 0xFFFFFFFF (“ffffffff”). This removes the working directory, which could be located on a network share, from Windows' list of locations to search for DLLs. But this causes problems for programs that use this search behavior, but are not vulnerable to DLL hijacking. The most prominent example is the current stable version of Google Chrome. If the registry key is set, the browser fails to find the avutil-50.dll file when the user opens the program or a new tab. If a Web page contains an HTML5 video element, the entire page fails to display. On one Windows 7 test system, open source graphics program GIMP was also no longer able to find its plug-ins. According to user reports, games service Steam and the Java plugin for Mozilla also encounter difficulties. Such cases can be resolved by either individually excluding problem applications from using the modified search behavior or watering down security measures for the problem programs. To do so, a new DWORD registry key called CWDIllegalInDllSearch should be created in HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Image File Execution Options\Program Name.exe\ and set to “0”. This causes the application to use Windows' standard list of search locations, but makes it once more vulnerable to DLL hijacking.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Microsoft-tool-for-DLL-vulnerability-interferes-with-some-applications-1069540.html>

59. *August 30, The New New Internet* – (International) **Hackers deface Philippine government sites.** The Philippine government has asked all of its federal agencies to

tighten security of their official Web sites following last week's hacking of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Web site, Xinhua reported. A government official said in a press statement the executive branch is adopting "best practices" to make government Web sites less vulnerable to intrusion. PIA is the official information arm of the Philippine government. The information agency Web site was down for several hours after it was hacked by a user named "7z1." The defaced Web page displayed a Chinese flag on a black background. The cyber attack was made almost a week after the Manila hostage tragedy in which eight Hong Kong tourists were killed. It is, however, unknown if the hack attack was related to the widespread public anger that followed the hostage situation.

Source: <http://www.thenewnewinternet.com/2010/08/30/hackers-deface-philippine-government-sites/>

60. *August 30, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Quantum system hacked in 'blinding' attack.** Researchers at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) have discovered a way to hack quantum network traffic using currently available technology. Quantum signals are touted as perfectly secure, since the act of observing the signal changes it and alerts the receiver to the interception. However, the researchers discovered a way to use a 1 milliwatt laser to fool the receiver into believing the message has not been tampered with, when in fact it can be harvested using traditional techniques. "Our hack gave 100 percent knowledge of the key, with zero disturbance to the system," a researcher from NTNU told Nature. "We have exploited a purely technological loophole that turns a quantum cryptographic system into a classical system, without anyone noticing." "Blinding" the receiving station allowed the team to harvest the data they needed. The attack worked on two commercially available quantum cryptography systems from Swiss firm ID Quantique, and a MagiQ Technologies system built in the United States. The team contacted both companies before publishing its research, and patches have now been issued.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2268908/quantum-system-hacked-blinding>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

61. *August 31, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Google, Skype under fire in India security crackdown.** BlackBerry may have won a reprieve but Google and Skype were squarely in the firing line August 31 as India's security agencies widened their crackdown on telecom firms. India's 1.1 million BlackBerry users heaved a sigh of relief after the government August 30 gave the smartphone's manufacturer a 2-month

window to provide a permanent solution to avert a ban on its corporate message services. Security forces in India, battling insurgencies ranging from Kashmir in the northwest to the far-flung northeast, are insisting that telecom groups give them the capability to monitor their data. Skype, the Internet phone service, and Google, which uses powerful encryption technology for its Gmail e-mail service, are expected to be among the next wave of firms to come under New Delhi's scanner. "If Google or Skype have a component that is not accessible, that will not be possible," a spokesman for the home ministry said. "The message is the same for everybody." Home ministry sources have said in the past that Skype, which uses Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VOIP) technology that sends calls over the Internet, poses a difficulty for domestic intelligence services.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100831/tc_afp/indiatelecomitsecurityblackberrygoogleskype

62. *August 31, Computerworld* – (National) **Hurricane Earl may test IT teleworkers.** If Hurricane Earl, now a major hurricane, hits the East Coast of the United States later the week of August 30, the top concern for IT executives may not be data center outages but loss of Internet access for telecommuting workers. Forecasters said the storm could possibly hit land somewhere between the Carolinas and New England sometime before the start of Labor Day weekend. Critical data centers, with backup generators, facilities and fuel supplies, are now built to continue operating during storms. The same cannot be said for the computing setups that telecommuters maintain in their homes, and they may be put to the test this year. Last year, a lack of hurricanes made it a good one for telecommuters. There were only three hurricanes in U.S. waters last year, and none of them brought hurricane force winds over land in this country, according to Eaton Corp., a power management company that has been tracking power outages nationally since 2008.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9182763/Hurricane_Earl_may_test_IT_teleworkers

63. *August 30, Associated Press* – (International) **New cables tie West Africa closer to Internet.** For a decade, West Africa's main connection to the Internet has been a single fiber-optic cable in the Atlantic Ocean, a tenuous and expensive link for one of the poorest areas of the planet. But this summer, a second cable snaked along the West African coastline, ending at Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos. It has more than five times the capacity of the old one and is set to bring competition to a market where wholesale Internet access costs nearly 500 times as much as it does in the United States. It is the first of a new wave of investment that the U.N.'s International Telecommunications Union said will vastly raise the bandwidth available in West Africa by mid-2012.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HTU3EG0.htm>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

64. *August 31, WOFL 35 Orlando* – (Florida) **Homes evacuated after explosives found.** About 10 homes were evacuated for a brief time August 30 after deputies discovered explosives in a duplex in Satellite Beach, Florida. At about 2 p.m., police said a 49-year-old called paramedics complaining of chest pains. As paramedics checked the house for medications, they discovered the explosives. The Brevard County bomb squad was called and removed three or four improvised explosives they found inside the home. Bomb squad officers had removed all the explosives by 10 p.m. Police said it looks like the explosives were fireworks the 49-year-old had set up for self-defense.
Source: http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/brevard_news/083010-homes-evacuated-after-explosives-found
65. *August 30, Palm Beach Daily News* – (Florida) **Bomb squad removes explosive device from beach.** A portion of Phipps Ocean Park, in Palm Beach, Florida, was closed for about 2 hours August 30 until the town's bomb squad removed a 3-gallon container holding 300 meters of line and powered with solid rocket fuel that had washed ashore. The Hansson Pyrotech line-thrower was discovered by a lifeguard at about 9:20 a.m. Police and firefighters cordoned off and monitored the area until the bomb unit arrived. The device was being taken in the town's bomb trailer for disposal at the bomb range at 20 Mile Bend in Palm Beach County.
Source: <http://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/news/bomb-squad-removes-explosive-device-from-beach-887434.html>

For another story, see item [40](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

66. *August 31, Helena Independent Record* – (Montana) **Cool temps aid Davis fire efforts.** Eight structures — none of them thought to be homes — apparently have burned in the Davis Fire near Canyon Creek, northwest of Helena, Montana. The news of the lost structures comes as the price tag of fighting the 2,015-acre wildfire has risen to \$1.3 million. The change in size is due to better mapping. The Davis fire started August 25 as a prescribed burn by the Helena National Forest, but raged out of control by August 26. As of August 30, 466 people were working on the fire, which was considered 50 percent contained that evening.
Source: http://helenair.com/news/local/article_2a4c70b6-b4c7-11df-9357-001cc4c03286.html
67. *August 30, Jacksonville Daily News* – (North Carolina) **Cape Lookout initiating evacuation plan.** Cape Lookout National Seashore in Carteret County, North Carolina is initiating its evacuation plan due to the approach of Hurricane Earl. Beginning at 5 p.m. September 1, the park in the Outer Banks will close to all visitors and services

until further notice, the superintendent said. The park includes the barrier islands of Shackleford Banks and Core Banks and is only accessible by boat. Hurricane Earl strengthened to a category 3 storm August 30 and is expected to make its closest approach to the North Carolina coast around September 2. Very high surf, dangerous rip currents, minor beach erosion, and some coastal flooding are among the anticipated coastal impacts, according to the latest forecast.

Source: <http://www.jdnews.com/news/cape-82100-plan-coastal.html>

68. *August 30, KCSG 14 St. George* – (Utah) **Subway wildfire in Zion National Park managed for multiple objectives.** A wildfire is currently burning in Zion National Park in Springdale, Utah. The Subway Fire, now estimated at 77 acres, is located on a plateau between Russell Gulch and Wildcat Canyon, approximately 5 miles south of Lava Point, in the northern portion of the park. At this time the fire is not posing any threats to park resources or adjoining private lands or structures. The wildfire was started by lightning August 18, and had shown little activity until gusty winds August 29 caused the fire to make a run to the northeast. A sizeable column of smoke could be seen some distance from the park. The Subway Fire is being managed by the park for multiple objectives including allowing fire to return to its natural role in the ecosystem. The wildfire location gives the park an opportunity to use the fire to achieve resource benefits, while still providing for the safety of park visitors and surrounding private lands. Resources assigned to the wildfire include 50 firefighters, two wildfire engines and a helicopter. Fire managers will continue to monitor the wildfire and use control measures, including full suppression, if the fire starts to pose any threat to park or private lands.

Source: http://www.kcsg.com/view/full_story/9326321/article-Subway-Wildfire-in-Zion-National-Park-Managed-For-Multiple-Objectives?instance=home_stories1

69. *August 30, Rolla Daily News* – (Missouri) **Wildland fire still burning in Mark Twain National Forest.** A wildland fire is burning in heavy fuels on National Forest lands on Salem Ranger District, Mark Twain National Forest, approximately 3 miles west of Black, Missouri. Black is approximately 40 miles southeast of Salem, Missouri, and approximately 6 miles west of Johnson Shut-ins State Park. As of 6 p.m. August 30, the rain earlier in the day had lessened the threat but the fire continued. The wildfire, now estimated at well over 50 acres in size, was discovered August 29 by the Reynolds County Sheriff's office. More than 30 firefighters are currently assigned to the fire, including firefighters from the North Reynolds County Fire Protection District. An estimated 10 structures and residences remain threatened. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by the U.S. Forest Service.

Source: <http://www.therolladailynews.com/newsnow/x278749264/Wildland-fire-still-burning-in-Mark-Twain-National-Forest>

70. *August 30, KTVB 7 Boise* – (Idaho) **Inside the Idaho fire camp of 700 firefighters.** A number of fires are still burning in the Boise National Forest and on Idaho Department of Lands property. Many fully contained fires still require mopping up hot spots. About 700 firefighters are working from the incident command post near Horseshoe Bend on the remaining fires and mopping up the contained fires. Some of the larger fires these

crews are facing, include the 1,100-acre Cottonwood Fire and the 312-acre Harris Creek Fire north of Bogus Basin. Shafer Butte campground remains closed. Firefighters are also focusing on two fires in the Grimes Pass area.

Source: <http://www.ktvb.com/news/local/fire-camp-101841963.html>

71. *August 30, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **Marijuana field discovered in Boulder Co.** Boulder County Sheriff's deputies in Colorado uncovered a marijuana grow operation on U.S. Forest Service land west of Lyons August 30, and authorities were looking for two suspects they described as "heavily armed." Deputies were acting on a tip when they found the field, comprised of roughly 3,000 marijuana plants, near Raymond and Riverside. A spokesperson said a suspect, described only as a Hispanic male, fled from the scene when officers arrived, disappearing into the Roosevelt National Forest. Agents were searching the area for the suspect and additional marijuana fields.

Source: <http://www.kwgn.com/news/kdvr-pot-field-boulder-txt.0.7639165.story>

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Dams Sector

72. *August 31, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Landowner fined for improper dam.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has fined a northeast Nebraska landowner and an excavation company \$30,000 for building a dam without proper authorization. EPA said the owner of Norfolk, Nebraska, hired Custom Excavation of Madison, Nebraska to build an earthen dam. The U.S. Corps of Engineers discovered the dam last fall on a tributary of Spring Branch Creek. The EPA said the dam affected more than 1 mile of the creek and more than 1 acre of nearby wetland. Landowners are required to consult with the Corps of Engineers and obtain permits before building dams. The EPA said the landowner is working with officials to develop a restoration plan for the area.

Source: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20100831/NEWS01/708319891>

73. *August 31, KXLF 4 Butte* – (Montana) **Boulder smashes into Madison Dam.** PPL Montana has begun to draw down Ennis Lake to allow engineers to inspect the damaged Madison River Dam in Montana. A huge rock, the size of a school bus, fell from a cliff over the dam at about 3 a.m. August 30, crashing into the west side of the dam. The rock crushed one end of the dam and damaged at least two of the hydraulically operated gates releasing water from the lake. About 12 to 15 gallons of hydraulic fluid used to operate the gates also leaked into the river. PPL Montana said it will drop the level of Ennis Lake by about 5 feet over the next few days, eventually lowering the lake about 9 feet to allow dam repairs to begin. Engineers said they do not know yet what caused the massive rock to fall on the dam. "Speculation only, a lot of moisture in this region over the last several days, weeks even, and water in the cracks of the rock. It's fractured rock anyway, beyond that no, no sign of any seismic activity or earthquake that would have caused it," the PPL director of external affairs said. He said until engineers get a closer look at the damage, it is impossible to predict how long repairs might take. He said lowering the lake will increase flows downstream on the

Madison, but not enough to make boating or fishing dangerous. PPL Montana reports in a news release that no one was injured and the facility is in stable condition. Madison Dam is a four-unit hydroelectric plant on the Madison River at the head of Bear Trap Canyon, about 10 miles north of Ennis.

Source: <http://www.kxlf.com/news/boulder-smashes-into-madison-dam/>

74. *August 31, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **More environmental problems surfacing at Lake Delhi.** Environmental problems are growing at Lake Delhi where a flood-related dam failure drained the lake in northeast Iowa in July. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources director said the Maquoketa River is washing away 80 years of silt on the bottom of the lake. He told The Des Moines Register August 30 that a stop-gap solution would be to spread a cover crop, such as oats, on the lake bed to help stabilize the sediment. He also said there are divisions within the agency over whether the lake should be restored. Last week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said the privately owned dam is not eligible for federal public assistance money.

Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/More-Environmental-Problems-Surfacing-At-Lake-Delhi-101877043.html>

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